

**REMARKS**

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's thorough consideration provided in the present application. Claims 1, 6, 7, 9, 15, 16, 19 and 20 are now present in the application. Claims 1 and 9 have been amended. Claims 1 and 9 are independent. Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

**Objections to the Claims**

The Examiner objected to claims 15 and 16 due to minor informalities.

In response to the Examiner's objections, claim 15 has been presented as "previously presented" by this Reply to correct the typographical error; claim 16 has been amended to restore the indentations to the "receiving" and "combining" steps, as requested by the Examiner.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw these objections.

**Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, First Paragraph**

Claims 1 and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As the Examiner will note, claims 1 and 9 have been amended to address the Examiner's rejection. Accordingly, all of the claims now comply with the enablement requirement. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, are therefore respectfully requested.

**Allowable Subject Matter**

The Examiner states that claims 1, 6, 7, 9, 15, 16, 19 and 20 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the early indication of allowable subject matter in this application. As set forth above, claims 1 and 9 have been amended to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, and therefore independent claims 1 and 9 should be in condition for allowance. Also, claims 6, 7, 15, 16, 19 and 20 depend, either directly or indirectly, from independent claims 1 and 9, and are therefore allowable based on their respective dependence from claims 1 and 9 which are believed to be allowable.

Favorable consideration and early allowance of the present application is respectfully requested.

**CONCLUSION**

It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the Office Action, and that as such, the Examiner is respectfully requested to send the application to Issue.

In the event there are any matters remaining in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact Paul C. Lewis, Registration No. 43,368 at (703) 205-8000 in the Washington, D.C. area.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.147; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: **December 14, 2009**

Respectfully submitted,

By

Paul C. Lewis

Registration No.: 43,368

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP  
8110 Gatehouse Road

Suite 100 East

P.O. Box 747

Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747

(703) 205-8000

Attorney for Applicant